

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**U.S. MARINE CORPS (USMC) PROPOSED JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING**  
**Wednesday, March 5, 2003**  
**7:00 PM – 9:30 PM**  
**Windward Community College**  
**Hale ‘Akoakoa, Rooms 101-105**  
**Kāne‘ohe, Hawai‘i**

**BACKGROUND**

U.S. Marines were deployed to the Philippines early last year to address terrorism as part of the war on terror and the response of the U.S. government to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. It was realized after initial deployment that the Marines were not adequately prepared to operate in a jungle environment. It is the responsibility of Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) to provide the best training and best equipment to troops deployed around the world as they may be put in harm's way. The property at Waikāne Valley (which was acquired in 1993 by the U.S. Navy through condemnation due to the unexploded ordnance hazard), with its multi-canopy jungle, was found to be very similar to the environment that Marines were encountering in the Philippines. This realization resulted in MCBH beginning to look at this site as a potential jungle warfare training area.

The first step that was taken was to open dialogue with the potentially affected community about the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the area. MCBH initiated conversations with local neighborhood boards and a small group of community representatives to discuss how best to begin the process of preparing an EA for the proposed site. Subsequent to the opening of these discussions the representatives from MCBH were approached by John Morgan of Kualoa Ranch who suggested areas of Hakipu‘u, Kualoa and Ka‘a‘awa as potential training areas. The Citizens Advisory Group or CAG was expanded to include persons from these potentially affected communities. The final membership of the CAG included representatives from the Waiāhole/Waikāne Community Association, the Kahalu‘u Neighborhood Board, Kualoa Regional Park, and the Ko‘olauloa Neighborhood Board. The purpose of the CAG was to advise MCBH on how to effectively involve the community in the EA process.

The EA process will result in one of three possible outcomes: a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI), a decision to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), or the abandonment of the project altogether. The EA process does not mandate early scoping with the public and other agencies as required for an EIS process. Recommendations from the neighborhood boards and the CAG contributed to the decision to conduct a public information meeting to ensure that other interested members of the community would have an opportunity to learn about the proposed activities, to seek clarification on issues that were a concern to them, and to get their concerns on the record. It was requested that the comments and questions expressed by the community be published in the EA document and MCBH committed to do this. MCBH also agreed to establish

a web site that community members could access to get information concerning the project and its status. There was also a suggestion and agreement that MCBH would conduct another public process within the community subsequent to the publishing of the EA and prior to its finalization.

What follows is a transcription of the group memory recorded on newsprint sheets by two facilitators during the public information meeting held in the evening at Windward Community College on March 5, 2003. A Hawaiian language translator was available at the meeting but no participants utilized this service. On the day of the meeting there was a request for a court reporter. The request was respectfully declined in part because of the lateness of the request; the informal nature of the meeting; the decision to annotate, transcribe and publish the group memory; and videotaping of the meeting by 'Olelo Community Television for airing on public access television.

An informational handout packet was available at the meeting and is accessible at <http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil>. Exhibits displayed in the meeting room were included as handout items.

#### COMMENTS (C), QUESTIONS (Q), AND ANSWERS (A)

Note: Italicized text in brackets represents actions by meeting participants and/or information presented (but not annotated) during the course of the public meeting.

*[The meeting convened with an opening pule, introductions, and an overview of meeting guidelines and the agenda. Hawaiian language translation service was available as recommended by the CAG. 'Olelo Community Television videotaped the meeting. Two facilitators were on hand to record the comments and questions on newsprint sheets. The videotape and these transcribed notations serve as the public record of the public meeting. Participants were informed that they could make the record better or more accurate by ensuring their comments were accurately annotated.]*

*[Representatives from the CAG made a brief presentation about the background and role of the CAG. Concerns that the CAG and Marines have discussed were identified.]*

C:        *Lo 'i restoration.*

C:        *Ordnance removal.*

C:        *Alien species removal.*

*[The Windward Community College Culinary Arts program was recognized for providing the refreshments. Representatives from MCBH presented information pertaining to the purpose and need for action, process options, and the affected environment as it pertains to the action. The presented information is included in the handout available on the website. The discussion was then open to comments and questions on the purpose, need, and NEPA process.]*

- Q: At what point does information go back to the public?
- A: *[Participants were directed to the MCBH NEPA Compliance handout that is part of the packet on the website.]*  
 After the Draft EA/analysis is *pau* it will go back to public for review prior to decision-making.
- C: Marines have selected a process that limits discussion on important issues.  
 To make use of these sites for military training is horrific.  
 Disappointed that people I respect are working with the Marines.  
 We are not welcoming jungle warfare into these areas of our *mokus* as these skills might be applied inappropriately in local situations.
- C: Need to consider past military use/impact and past broken promises as well as the proposed action.  
 Revisit what happened before talking about future use.  
 The area by the military's own assessment is dangerous. Needs to be cleaned up first before considering additional actions.
- C/Q: Concerned members of the Filipino Community of O'ahu honor previous speaker's comments.  
 Proposed training assumes "combat" that is being prepared for.  
 What about recent cancellation of actions in Philippines that were deemed contrary to the Philippine constitution?  
 The Filipino population and others demonstrated in opposition to U.S. military involvement. How do you justify actions in light of this?  
 What about military action that works against peace movements?  
 What about resulting destabilization of peace process/violations of civil rights of those in Philippines?  
 40,000 people are already displaced in the Philippines.  
 If jungle warfare training was insufficient before was it because the military has been kicked out of other training sites?  
 Why in Hawaii now?  
 What about EAs/EISs regarding impacts on those areas where combat occurs?
- A: *[MAJ Rouse articulated the following answer that was not captured in notes. To the above comments and questions regarding the Philippines, my job is to respond to the troops request for training whereas the policy issue between the Philippine Government and the U.S. is outside of my purview and must be handled at a higher level. My responsibility is to meet the continuing need to provide training to Marines who are being sent into these situations where they may risk their lives in a jungle.]*

- Q: Why are you looking at Kualoa?
- A: John Morgan from the ranch encouraged us to consider Kualoa as a site.
- C/Q: Punalu‘u once occupied by military – During WWII significant disturbance/movement occurred. – Why should future proposed actions be trusted?  
*[A map exhibit was provided to the Marines – It shows ceded and other lands used by military.]*  
 Do not need one more square foot of land to train Marines.
- C: Kualoa is sacred.  
 Pu‘u Manamana would be affected (per map in the handouts). – Shouldn’t come anywhere near Pu‘u Manamana.  
 Concern about water contamination and its potential impacts on food and subsistence activities.
- C: Environment not just plants and animals – Sites have names and stories referenced by *kupuna* – It’s all part of who we are as Hawaiian people.  
 Kualoa and jungle warfare training shouldn’t go in the same sentence.  
 Families are stewards of Kualoa, not “owners.”  
 As it would be inappropriate to conduct such activities at the National Cemetery of the Pacific, it is inappropriate to conduct these activities as proposed in Kualoa, Hakipu‘u, and Ka‘a‘awa.
- C: Grandparents were displaced from Mōkapu to make room for the base.  
 EA/EIS doesn’t speak to moral/ethical impact of the proposed action.  
 We don’t want to be complicit with unethical or immoral actions.
- C: If this activity is going to affect families’ areas where they live and learn – it is not a good idea.  
 It’s definitely going to pollute water and adversely affect families.
- C: This process is too limited. – Biota of this area once included the people (in historic times).  
 Contemporary processes do not address the rich history of the Kualoa area.  
 Biota of site is central to the needs and interests of Hawaiians.  
 The Kualoa area belongs to a deeper past.  
 This is an exercise in intellectual arrogance. We as a culture are not in this ritual. – That’s why resistance is manifesting. – Neither EA/EIS is appropriate.  
 Resistance and questions are spiritual and ancient. – America is only 250 years old.  
*[The underlined text represents a correction to the notes that reflects the participant’s articulated remarks.]*  
 Need to evolve into a process that addresses the human dimension.

- C: As a visitor from the *moku* of Waianae - Two issues to raise.  
Because Marines driving process you choose questions not the people who live in the *moku* as it should be.  
Claimed need for training...Iraq...Deployed troops didn't train in the Oahu desert because there is no desert on Oahu. *[The underlined text represents a correction to the notes that reflects the participant's articulated remarks.]*  
Questions chosen are too narrow – Doesn't communicate sincerity on your part.
- C/Q: Clean Waikāne first.  
Marines damaged land elsewhere and in Waikāne – Why trust them to not repeat same breaches?  
How can soldiers be put on land deemed unsafe for civilians?  
Put fertilizer on land in U.S. and grow a new jungle.  
If unsafe for civilians, how can it be safe for others?  
Clean it first! Don't damage more land!  
The area is not controlled and is not safe for anyone.  
Request to clean area ignored. – Military promised to clean it up before placing any more military on land. – This proposed action is a breach of that promise.
- C: Lots of mistrust and controversy regarding the history of this area. – Kamaka family.
- C: Turnover in military personnel means the community is constantly meeting with different players. – Difficult to trust new faces. – They have no history and ignore what has gone before.  
There are lingering concerns about the original taking of land.  
There is heavy traffic up in the area now.  
The incarceration of a Kamaka family member over this issue engendered ill will.  
*Heiau* at Hakipu'u sacred. – Part of Kamaka family.  
Original settlement involved complexities for which many families were unprepared.  
Local effort may be meaningless. – Real authority is Senator Inouye.
- C/Q: Concerned about Marines repeating what was done to families at Mōkapu – Land never returned as promised. – What's to keep that from happening again?  
How can we trust you?
- C/Q: Honored to be in the presence of those here who are revered and admired.  
Feel bad for those disconnected from their history/land. – How could you understand what our concerns mean?  
There are lots of EAs/EISs that have been disregarded.  
Holding you personally accountable for U.S. actions of war/oppression.

C: Even America isn't yours. – It belongs to red people.  
Shame on you for “rubber stamping” what your superiors want to do.  
Stop expansion now.  
Eventual goal to eliminate U.S. military from Hawaii altogether.  
Your superiors are allowing you to be the receptacle of this *hewa*.  
Superiors are lying to you.

*[With approximately 1 hour of time remaining, participants were queried regarding their interest in continuing with the existing dialogue or listening to the next presentation on the training scenarios.]*

C: Consider holding another meeting(s).

*[MAJ Rouse presented information pertaining to proposed activities.]*

#### Proposed Actions

150 Marines.  
2 to 3 times per month  
3 to 4 days a week.  
No vehicles.  
No live ordnance.  
No aviation except in medical emergency (i.e., medevac).  
Patrolling activity  
Communication  
Jungle tactics

C: Don't present us with language like “will” be doing. – It has not been decided it is what you “might” be doing.

C: Heal the red scar in the valley you never healed.

Q: Is this survival training?

A: No.

Q: How are you going to get them there?

A: Probably by bus.

Q: Are you going to schedule time for us to go up so our *keiki* are safe? – Are you scheduling our kids to use our own land?

A: We are only looking at impact of our soldiers training on the land.

C: You are misunderstanding our point; we don't want them because we would have to schedule time.

- Q: After 60 years what are the chances of you cleaning up?
- A: Area is not being considered for clean-up in this action. – There is a process by which sites are identified and funded for cleanup. I am not part of that process; answer is no.
- C/Q: What about night training? – Too close to my house. – Call it quits already.
- C: I just see a mess where the military goes. – Clean up your house first before you propose more. – Stop.
- C: This hearing is a formality; as citizens you should take what you know to everyone. – Take manifest destiny action of our own. – Talk, pass the word that it is an illegal overthrow.
- Peace is possible.
- C/Q: Kahalu‘u Neighborhood Board calling for a full EIS.
- Does EA look at cumulative impact?
- A: Yes.
- C/Q: Have to look at cumulative impacts as including past uses and actions.
- Is there a need to know how to clean up? If yes, that is what we should be talking about. Example is fencing which presents a huge impact.
- Can certain areas in *lo‘i* areas be fenced and made clean and usable?
- A: With respect to cleaning, there is a way to make your voices heard. – Need to go to elected officials and unfortunately through the established government process. – Then maybe restore *lo‘i* if follow process.
- Q: Can we amend this process for that?
- A: No.
- C: You need to take the message back.
- A: I will.
- C: To you it’s a piece of real estate. – We have a familial relationship to the land.
- More land for military activities isn’t right.
- Q: Does the Army already have a jungle training area?
- A: No.
- There is one training area at Schofield Barracks East Range and another at Kahuku Training Area that will be weighed as alternatives in the EA for their ability to meet the training need. *[The underlined text represents a correction to the notes that reflects the response articulated by MAJ Rouse.]*
- C/Q: Proper questions not asked. – Proper venue not provided. – You are the guests. – Should ask our permission.
- Whenever U.S. goes to war they take more land. – Expanding in other areas already. – Missile launch at Kauai, etc. – Group has a petition to stop expansion.

C/Q: Real justice requires acknowledgement of harm that military did. – Need to restore land to start healing.

Cleanups started on WWII sites. Why not Waikāne?

A: I cannot apologize for the Marine Corps, only Congress can.

With respect to cleanup actions for WWII sites that are currently moving forward, there is a subtle difference between those Formally Used Defense Sites as classified by law and Waikāne which was not identified in this class.

Q: How much money does it cost to deploy 1,000 troops to the Philippines for a month?

A: Don't know. – Will research.

C/Q: This is not a proper venue – Military should be on other side asking permission from us.

This is what happened in Mākua. – What resulted was we helped the military to build a better EA.

Under NEPA you can do an EIS without an EA?

A: Yes.

C/Q: Hakipu'u – Special place. – Ancestors all there.

You ask for trust. – Difficult to give because of history.

'Aina is sacred. – Much damage done in WWII to burials and caves.

Kualoa was training ground for warriors anyway so you feel you can use again, but it was a training place for our ancestral warriors not yours or someone else's; therefore, we need to give permission and we are not.

Hakipu'u is where Maui died and there is a connection to many other deities and sacred people and places. – Wonder if you guys are going to think about that. – I doubt it.

Kualoa is the birthplace of Hokulea. – Hakupu'u Learning Center uses the valley as classroom. – Military/educational use not a good mix. – Military does not have good record in foreign countries.

We have questions about the safety for our people in the valley.

Waikāne means the waters of Kane. – It is a very sacred place.

There are already places played/swam small kid time. – No more for this generation of *keiki*.

City park plans for *lo'i* in park being developed. – I question whether this action is compatible.

If Marines want to use Waikāne Valley, tell them to clean it up. – That was the agreement.

*Lo'i* are gifts from grandparents. – Expect to take care of. – Can not because you no clean up.



- C/Q: Why get terrorists? – Should look at what we’re doing to make people so mad at us.
- C: EA or EIS needs to be done by outside source. – People from communities should do.  
Lands should be cleaned up and returned along with all ceded lands.  
War on terrorism is a conspiracy of racism, violence, militarism.  
Say no to escalation of military and violence. – Yes to peace.
- C/Q: This document will be created in a captivated process and all progress for peace stopped after 9/11.  
9/11 is being used as an excuse to increase and expand military activities.  
Why are Schofield and Kahuku not included?
- A: EAs for these areas have already been done. – Do not need a separate study but will be looked at as alternatives sites in our EA.
- C: More discussion on use of those sites needs to take place.  
Need to take our views to our legislators.  
What’s happening here tonight is connected to everything else.
- Q: Use of sign-in is for what?
- A: Sign-in allows MCBH to remain in contact with participants of this public meeting.  
Sign-in will be posted on website and accessible to everyone.
- Q: Who here is in support? Anyone speak in favor?
- C: John Morgan/MAJ Rouse can make it stop. – Do it.
- C: I commend MAJ Rouse on his courage.  
Use your bravery to convince higher ups to not do this.  
You convince higher ups and we’ll do our part and vote to elect people who are against war. – Didn’t do so good last time. – This guy (President Bush) loves war.
- C: In response to the earlier question I am here in support. – It is a hard job to train your Marines.  
Documents show that some of the best preserved oceanfront lands are on military bases. – U.H. professors confirm this. – Marine Corps base here won several environmental awards.  
Military has obligation to defend the very right exhibited here tonight.
- C: Folks need to get their history right. – MCBH has development and has a golf course on burials. – Not appropriate.  
Kahuku was condemned even over government objections.  
Washington D.C. pushed to waive environmental laws for military uses.  
State legislator introduced the same bill.  
Need to fight against disease and illiteracy. – Invest in diplomacy.

C: *[John Morgan was asked to comment on the use of Hakipu‘u, Kualoa, and Ka‘a‘awa.]*  
Stewardship drives the decisions we make for Kualoa Ranch.

There is no current commitment to allow military to use Kualoa Ranch.

Obviously the relationship with the military is important and their study would provide baseline information for our lands, but in view of what I have heard tonight I am pulling Hakipu‘u and Kualoa off the table.

Q: What about Ka‘a‘awa?

A: Will not commit to taking it off the table at this time.

C: Not looking at connections between Ka‘a‘awa and Kahana and should not be there either! Places here are also sacred and spiritual. – Not Ka‘a‘awa.

*[Next was a discussion of what is on/off the table.]*

#### What’s On/Off the Table

Clean up – off the table.

Hakipu‘u – off the table.

Ka‘a‘awa – *[no commitment indicated]*

This will remain the only process we have to work with although we recognize that you have other thoughts.

Cultural sensitivity training for Marines going into the valley – will do.

Water quality monitoring – will do.

Site visits to ensure the Marines are doing what we said we would do if found not significant – will consider.

Removal of alien species – will consider.

Q: Will there be another meeting?

A: Yes. – Two weeks after Draft EA is out so it is before decision making.

Q: Isn’t it clear we don’t want it?

A: Yes, it’s clear. – Will take message back.

*[Participants were informed that they could submit any additional comments in writing via mail or fax. They could also log comments via the website. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:10 PM.]*

*[Subsequent to the public meeting John Morgan informed MAJ Rouse that Ka‘a‘awa was also off the table.]*